

Justin Joyce

THE SABRES' BLADE

November 13, 1996

South Mecklenburg High School

8900 Park Road

Charlotte, North Carolina, 28210

Volume XXIV

South Meck's Leading Ladies



Nikki Harris smiles as she accepts her crown from Kim Bailey.

Nikki Harris named Miss South

By Lauren Coggins

Nikki Harris was crowned Miss South at the West Charlotte football game on October 4 by last year's winner, Kim Bailey. A member of the class of '97, Nikki is involved in Interkeys, Sisters With Vision, NAACP, Peaceful Sabres, National Spanish Honor Society and Debate. She can also be seen performing with the South Meck Lettergirls at football games and pep rallies.

Students voted for Miss South in homeroom, choosing from a group of ten finalists: Amy Bailes, Carrie Elam, Kara Hodge, Amy Hawn, Farrell Beam, Kathy Van Brederode, Ta'Hysha McClain, Vani Hari, Wendi Wright, and Nikki Harris.

Harris will represent South Mecklenburg downtown at the annual Carrousel Parade on Thanksgiving Day.



The crowd roars for Jennifer as she is congratulated by Dr. Knox.

Lyon crowned Homecoming Queen

By Cliff Mauriello

Alumna Rebecca Queen crowned Jennifer Lyon South's Homecoming Queen for the Class of '97. Nikki Harris won first runner up and Kathy van Brederode was second runner up. Student council members Parish McIntyre and John Flumian and Principal Knox congratulated all three winners.

For once the weather cooperated with festivities. The rain which had been forecasted to

plague all of Mecklenburg County's high school football games, ended an hour before South's homecoming contest with Independence began.

The NJROTC provided an honor guard as the ladies were presented by their fathers to the studentbody. Mr. Skinner, German teacher, served as master of ceremonies, announcing the name of each nominee, her escort, and her club sponsor.

Ms. Sears chosen for Ben Craig Award

By Cliff Mauriello

Ms. Melody Sears has been nominated from South Meck for the Ben Craig Award for Outstanding Teacher this year. She was considered for this award for her efforts to bring the Paideia Program to South Meck.

Paideia combines the core courses in the curriculum together so that students see the interrelatedness of academic areas. The program stresses good citizenship. Students discuss issues through classical documents and works of art.

Ms. Sears taught Paideia for four years in Wake County before bringing the program to South. She has guest lectured on Paideia at NCSU and Meredith College and was well received.

Prior to teaching in Wake County, she was an administrator for Big Bend Community College in Germany.

She received her undergraduate degree from Appalachian State University, a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction at NCSU, and a principal certification at NCSU. She hopes to complete her PhD at UNCC.

"I am happy to be at South. I love the students here and I think this is the finest faculty that I have ever encountered," she said.

South students return from Orient

By Andrew Buchert

Mrs. Bethea, Amanda Kernodle, and Katherine Yancey returned October 11 from a ten day trip to Baoding, China. Mrs. Bethea and the students were selected to go on the CMS sister city exchange in April as part of a group of twenty-three teachers and seventeen students. "I don't think South realizes how truly remarkable Amanda and Katherine are. They represented South so well," said Bethea.

Baoding invited the students in January. Interviews were held at each of the participating high schools; Amanda and Katherine were chosen out of seven South students.

Charlotte has invited Baoding

to send a group of high school students here, but the Chinese government still has not given approval for the estimated \$2000 trip. There will, however, be another trip to China.

The most educational part of the trip was, according to Mrs. Bethea, "Opening my students' minds to different cultures, and realizing that communist China isn't communist China the way we always thought it was."

Another highlight was the major tourist attractions. For Mrs. Bethea, seeing the Great Wall was an "unbelievable experience. I will never teach [history] again without the memory, the feeling of that afternoon."

They ate most of their food at

a Western style Chinese restaurant. "The food was strange. I don't know what I ate," Katherine said.

The entire group agrees that a second trip is necessary. "It was the most incredible experience that I have ever had, and I would do anything to go back tomorrow" Amanda said.

"It was amazing. You can't really describe it in words. It was the best experience I ever had, and I would definitely do it again," Katherine said.

"I think that it [the trip] is the most valuable thing that I have ever done in my professional life," said Bethea. "It's one of those experiences that will always be with you."



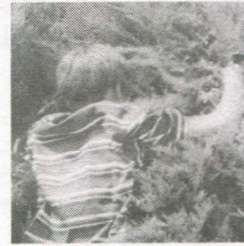
Amanda and Katherine visiting a Baoding elementary school.

Is increased security really necessary?
Page 2



Take a look at South's former students who made it big!
Page 4 and 5

Prickly bushes and tall seniors...
Page 6



The United States deserves your vote

By Cliff Mauriello

Thomas Jefferson and George Washington are probably rolling over in their graves. This little piece of North America they made independent has grown from 13 states to 50 states and from 2 million farmers and small proprietors to 250 million industrial workers and corporate executives. They would probably be unable to recognize their own native Virginia.

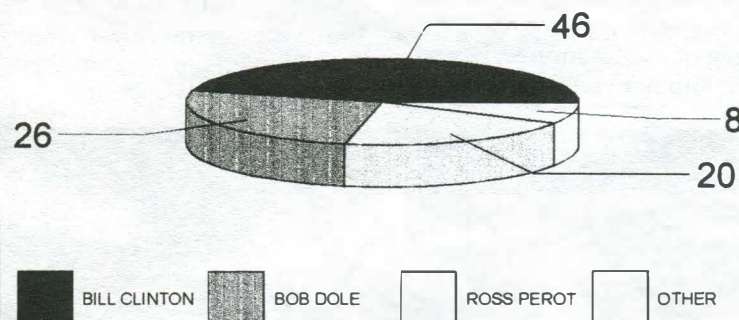
They certainly would not recognize the Federal Government they created. When Washington was elected President, he created an executive branch with only three departments; the Departments of War, the State, and the Treasury. Today, the Federal Government has over a dozen departments and the D. C. bureaucracy reaches to almost every aspect of civilian life.

Jefferson had a different sort of government in mind. He envisioned a government of part time politicians and full time businessmen or farmers so that the people could make their own decisions at the local and state level. The Federal Government was only to exist as a body that united the states and oversaw their activities. That is not the government we have today. Although Jefferson's ideal of a contained central government is

all but lost on today's politicians, there are still plenty of reasons for the citizens of the United States to be thankful. The Bill of Rights still guarantees the right to freedom of expression, the right to bear arms, and the right to due process of law. The Constitution provides a series of balances to prevent politicians from gaining too much power. Most importantly, the Constitution guarantees every citizen the right to have a voice. This voice is the vote.

Most of the student body was probably unable to vote in the election at the beginning of this month. In fact the greatest impact the election had for most students was an extra day to sleep in. But take the time to stop and think about what this election means. Voter apathy is highest among 18 to 25 year olds, which means that older citizens are influencing this age group's future with their vote. If you were old enough to vote and didn't, remember this: there is no way you can complain about the leaders in Washington because you didn't help to decide who they would be. Next year, don't lose your voice in government. Exercise your right to vote. Washington and Jefferson would be proud.

SOUTH SENIORS VOTE FOR 1996 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION



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Do we need to increase athletic event security?

Point

By Kevin Ballantine

What's up with all of the violence in our school? Because of all of this we have had to add security to our football games. I think this new security is good while the reason for it is a disturbing reality check to a lot of us.

During the past month a lot has been going on at South. There have been more fights at school, along with an increasing number of incidents involving weapons. This is not exactly a good sign.

The new security measures at the football games are a good thing. Several weeks ago a student at South was robbed at gunpoint during school. Are we supposed to feel safe at school and not be scared of getting robbed or hurt? The answer should be yes and the new security is helping to relieve some anxiety.

Sure, it may seem a nuisance or a little too much trouble, but how would you like it if a guy came to your football game with a gun. This new security is here to stay. It's here to try to make students feel as safe as can be.

You might argue that the new security measures infringe on our rights. Nevertheless, I'd much rather have someone intrude on my rights, than to intrude on my personal safety. The school system is trying to make us feel safe and to protect us. Some say it's too much protection. Well, I certainly feel safer, and speaking for many of my friends, I do believe that they would agree.

Enough with all of the complaints about how the football security is no good. It's making the games safer and the police are here to protect us. Be thankful, not mad. It's not their fault that they are here. The new security of metal detectors and an expanded police force is a good thing. Now, violence might decrease.

Counterpoint

By Karen Whichard

Each year thousands of high school students become actively involved with their school. Football games, with Homecoming and other special events, are an important part of many high schools. Football teams can become the center of a whole community, and everyone attends the games on Friday nights. South Meck is in danger of losing this tradition, and with the addition of more security, many students do not feel welcome at games.

One of the reasons more security at games is unpopular is that many students feel it is unnecessary. There have been games this season where the number of police officers rivals the number of students. Every time you turn around there is another officer. They come in car, on foot and on bicycles, and you wonder where the fire is.

Another problem with the increase of security is that it involves money. There are several areas within this school that are in desperate need of financial support. It is hard to do fundraiser after fund-raiser when the money needed is being invested in metal detectors you find unnecessary.

The increase in security also seems more politically motivated than it should be. If the school system has a problem with violence, why not invest the money into more comprehensive programs aimed at those who are actually violent?

It is a critical time at South Meck. Attendance has been steadily dropping, and solutions must be found to entice students to become involved and attend the games. The attitude of many students is represented in the statement of a junior, "I don't feel like they trust us to come and participate in after school activities." It is impossible for the student body have a good relationship without trust.

Their Take on It

Legislation cracks down on teen smokers

I can understand the present legislation which limits access to tobacco products. It is meant to deter young people from smoking. But arresting teens for the possession of tobacco is taking determent a little bit too far. Smoking itself is not an immoral thing—people who smoke are not evil people.

So what is the justification for making tobacco illegal? Is it merely the fact that smoking is not healthy? If that's the case, then someone had better talk to those Girl Scouts. Did you notice how much saturated fat is in a box of those cookies?

Jennifer Mease, *The Eagle*, East Mecklenburg High School

Parents, coaches pressure athletes

Part of the responsibility for the pressure kids feel to win lies with the parents and coaches of their athletic teams. They need to realize this negative stress can cause lasting psychological effects on their children.

Emotional harm is not the only consequence of this type of negative pressure. Serious physical injury can also occur as a result of overtraining or obsessing about having the perfect body for a particular sport. Athletes and 20 year olds are at an even higher risk of severe injury because their bodies are not yet fully developed.

Kendra Webber, *The Hoofprint*, Myers Park High School

African proud of heritage

Well folks, I would no sooner deny my African heritage than you would deny your Irish heritage or German heritage. Our heritage is part of who we are, our cultural grounding that should be worthy of celebration not denigration.

Fannie Flono, *The Charlotte Observer*

A new look at pill popping

By Katie Payerle

The FDA recently released a decision which allows the testing and future marketing of a pill, RU-486 which allows women to abort their unwanted pregnancies up to 9 weeks after conception. This decision is inhumane and should be reversed.

Modern science has allowed us to detect a heartbeat and brain waves in an unborn baby by the time the mother can be sure of her pregnancy. It tells us that unborn babies are indeed separate human beings because they possess different genetic material than their parents do. The constitution tells us that murder is illegal. Murder is defined as the purposeful killing of an individual human being. An unborn baby is genetically individual and biologically human. Even with all this knowl-

edge, however, the United States has legalized the killing of these babies by a process that is as easy as taking a Tylenol, thereby reducing a human life to the level of an annoying cold symptom.

While surgical abortions are just as wrong as drug induced abortions, they are inconvenient and painful, forcing the mother to think more carefully about other options. Now, a mother can get rid of an unwanted baby with relatively little physical hardship.

The relative ease of this procedure encourages promiscuity by diminishing the consequences.

If this response to carelessness only affected the participants, it would be forgivable, but it involves another life. A human baby's life is being put on the

line for the sake of convenience, and it is not fair to punish a person just because he is "inconvenient".

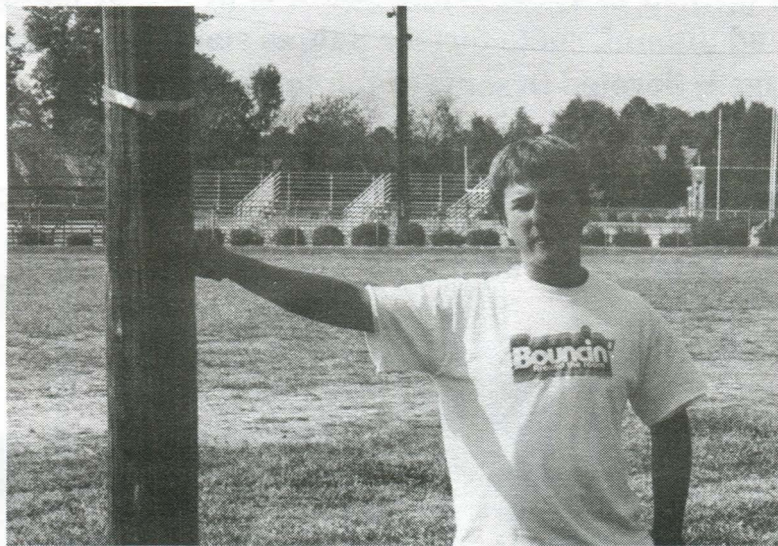
Regardless of the circumstances, it should not be that easy to legally kill anyone. Even condemned criminals on death row cannot be executed without using a great deal of government time and money.

There are circumstances in which raising a child would be an impossible hardship. If a mother decides she doesn't want her baby, she can put the baby up for adoption. There are people who have been waiting to adopt for up to five years. There is no such thing as a completely unwanted child.

Given this evidence, how can Americans allow babies to be "taken care of" as one would take care of a headache?

Faces in the Crowd

What's your
opinion on
school dances?



Little Johnson a big hit

By Jennifer Collins

You may know this face from varsity baseball games. Matt Johnson has been playing baseball for over ten years now. He has played third base for South for the past two seasons.

Academically, Matt excels in his studies. This is evident in his advanced and AG class schedule.

Matt Johnson is a member of this year's Key Club, and also a general member of this year's Junior Class Council. This is his second year on the student council and he is enjoying it. His adviser, Mr. Howard, said, "An effective and dedicated student leader. Matt can often be found working in the background to make projects successful."

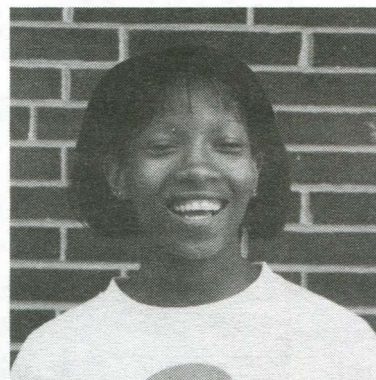
He spends his spare time watching underground bands who are new to the scene. He is

an amateur guitar player. He may also be found at Young Life meetings on Monday nights. When asked about this experience, he said, "It is a great place to meet new friends."

Matt is taking a class focused on national resource management. Johnson enjoys snowboarding, mountain bike riding, and camping. He wants to keep the environment clean so he may enjoy these events in the future.

Anyone who knows Matt will agree that he is a comedian. He has a personality that is fun-loving and humorous. Matt works hard when necessary but knows how to enjoy himself. He likes to follow the advice of "Living life day to day."

Matt hopes to attend UNC at Chapel Hill. He would like to major in international business.



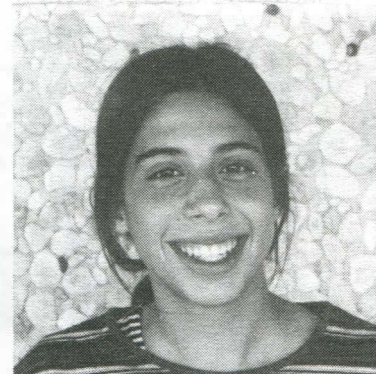
Sissy Hopkins - 12th

"Some people have never had one before. School dances are fun. Everyone would love to bring school dances back."



Lauren Tate - 9th

"... school dances are a time to be with your friends and to me high school is supposed to be about learning and friendship!"



Lauren Laganis - 10th

"I think for some people it would be fun to bring back the dances. I personally do not care if we bring them back or not."

Name: Matt Johnson
Favorite Actor: Val Kilmer
In CD Player: Sublime
Favorite Food: Chinese
Favorite Ice Cream Flavor: Chocolate
Favorite Band: Jump Little Children



Name: Brenda Tindal
Brenda's kind of music: R&B
Favorite person: her sister, Glenda
Subject: Biology
Food: Shrimp Fried Rice
College Campus: Duke University

Tindal rises to the top

By Branna Calloway

Brenda Tindal is working her way to becoming a well-known name around South. She is only in the tenth grade and already has more honors than some seniors. Brenda is a very talented young woman. Her many talents include poetry and oratory.

Brenda was on the Debate Team last year and continues this year. She won second place last year at the Polk Memorial Debate and first place at the Laird Lewis Invitational Debate this year. Brenda is also a member of the National Forensic League, similar to a Debate Honor Society.

School involvement plays a major role in Brenda's academic career. She is president of Sophomore Student Council, vice president of Ecology Club, vice president of SWV, and secretary of ICC.

After school, Brenda can be found working at Flamer's in

Carolina Place Mall or volunteering for academic remediation at Quail Hollow.

Over the summer, Brenda participated in Upward Bound and was nominated for Who's Who Among American High School Students. At Upward Bound, she was named Miss Upward Bound, Best All-Around Student, and she received the Highest Average Award. Brenda is also the Student Relation Representative for Upward Bound.

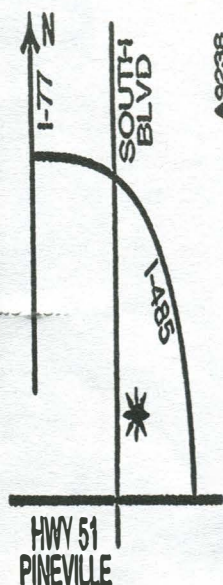
Her goals are to graduate from high school with outstanding honors and to continue to be a role model. Her advice for those who look up to her is "never be satisfied, and always strive for more." Brenda's role models are Maya Angelou, Angela Bassett, and Tony Howard.

In ten years, she sees herself trying to pass the bar exam. She wants to attend either Duke or Spelman University.

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Where Are

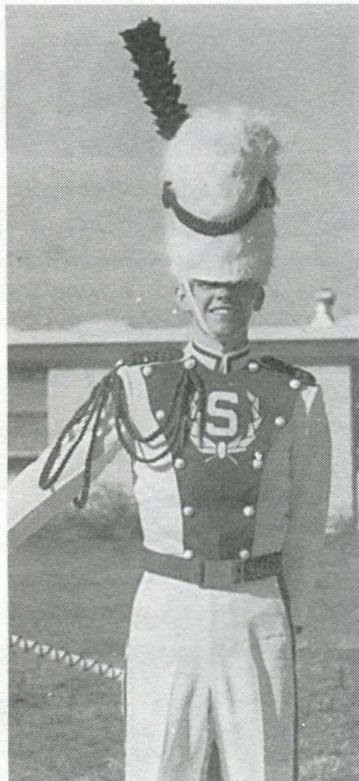
Student Life "Back in the Day"



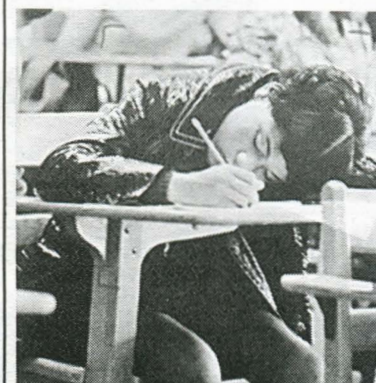
Resting between classes (1970)



Student listens to homecoming dicussion (1974)

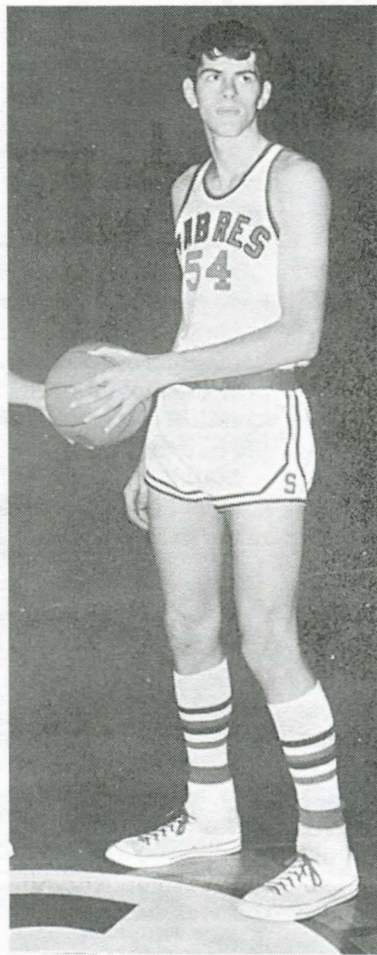


South's first drum major, Steve Acuff (1964)



Taking a nap during a lecture (1972)

Sabre Success :



Bobby Jones, 1970

"I was tall and akward and no one really believed I would be a successful athlete." These are the words of Bobby Jones, South Meck alumni and former basketball player for the Denver Nuggets and the Philadelphia 76ers. Today, Jones stands proudly at six feet, nine inches and still loves basketball. He is a coach during the school year at Charlotte Christian School. He is a coordinator of a Christian basketball camp during the summer. Even with his mile long record of sports success, Jones feels that his greatest accomplishment is close to home. He is most proud of his three children, Eric, Matthew, and Meredith, and his wife, Tess.

Jones' experience at South Meck provided him with "good teachers who were concerned about me as a person." Among his greatest influences were Coach Price at South and Coach Dean Smith at UNC at Chapel Hill. Although South Meck was a large part of his life, Jones does not feel that South was the

South Mecklenburg has graduated many thousands of students since it opened in 1959. While South is proud of all of its students and alumni, some former Sabres stand out in the crowd. This page is devoted to some of the success stories.

Bobby Jones

class of 1970

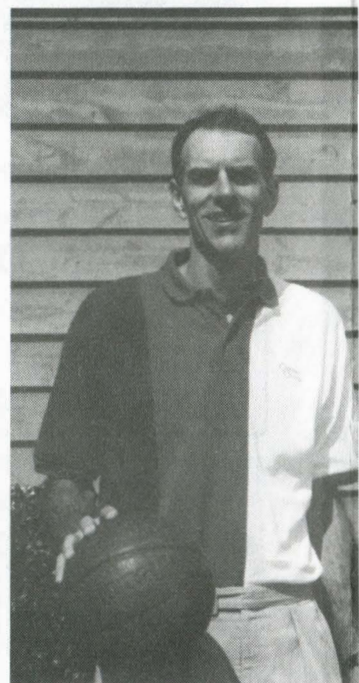
"foundation to his future."

"As a Christian," he says, "My foundation is the Bible. I try to base my life on what God says the truth is." He believes that school and work are mere accessories to a strong moral foundation.

Jones gives advice to students who are interested in basketball as a career. "Don't look at it as a career," he says. "Too much is against you. If you want to work toward that, develop goals and work consistantly to meet those goals. If you don't succeed in basketball, you can transfer those skills to other areas."

Jones remembers South Meck fondly. He enjoyed the athletic program and Coach Price. He describes the teachers as "friendly and comfortable." He hopes that he can also be a positive example to the students he works with. As a final remark, he said to present and future Sabres, "I wish South well."

Katie Payerle



Jones, 1996

John Bishop, DDS

Class of 1974

When he was at South, John Bishop served as the President of Executive Council and President of Honor Society. He played the cello and piano in the school orchestra. "My senior year was very busy," he said of his many activities.

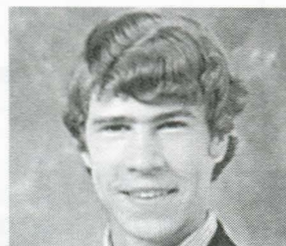
Dr. Bishop was a music major at UNC Chapel Hill and afterward, he went to dental school. He set up practice in 1985 and has an office in Charlotte. His latest project is building another office in Belmont. He lives in Charlotte with his wife and young son, Zach.

Bishop says that South was the foundation for his future. "There were many good teachers who prepared me for my future," he said. When he went to South, it was surrounded by cow pastures. The auditorium and football field were just being built.

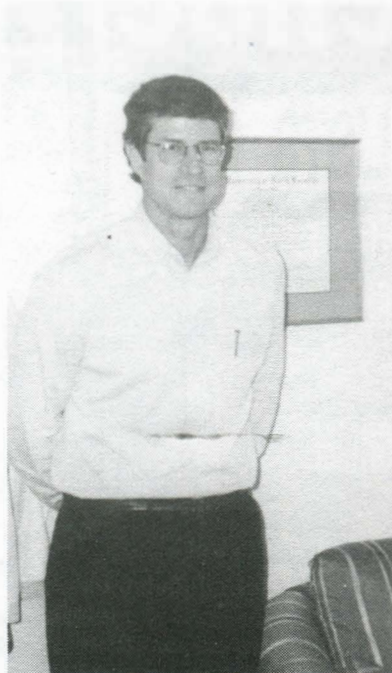
Bishop was not the only member of his family whose attendance at South led to success. His two brothers became lawyers in Charlotte, and his sister is a physician.

His only advice to students is to "Pursue what you are interested in and like, don't let anything stop you. Explore whatever you want to do and don't be restricted to what's around you."

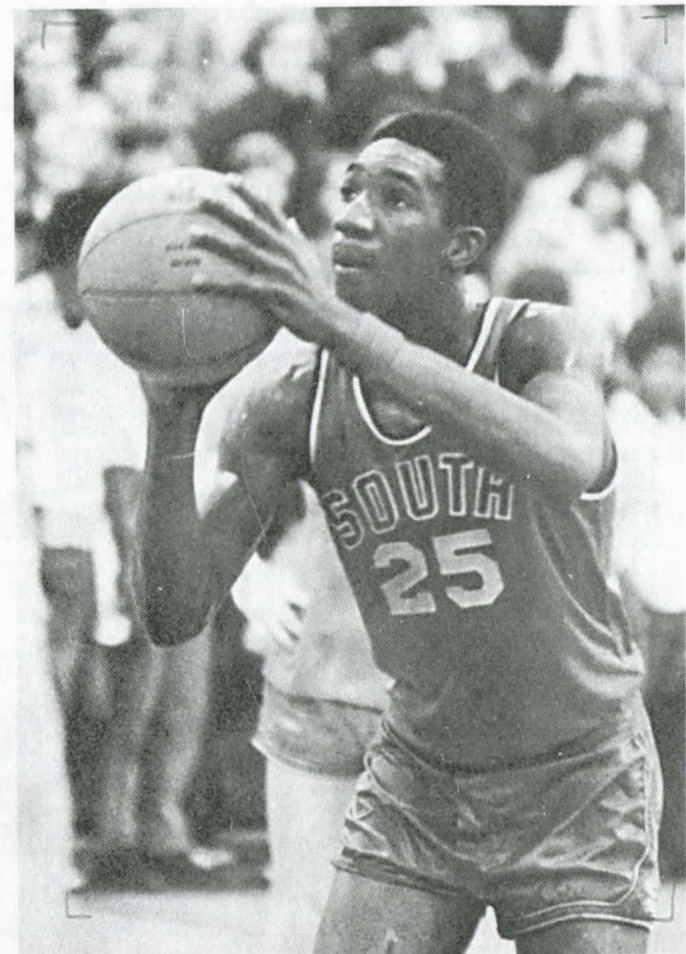
Nicole Ewing



John Bishop, 1974



Bishop, 1996



Walter Davis, 1972

After graduating from South, Walter Davis enrolled in Sanford College Preparatory School in Delaware. After leaving Sanford, he enrolled in the University of North Carolina on a basketball scholarship.

He graduated from UNC and was the fifth player chosen for the 1977 NBA Draft. He was Rookie of the Year for the 1977-78 season and played in the NBA for fourteen more years. He spent eleven years in Phoenix, one year in Portland, and ended his career in Denver in

Walter

class of

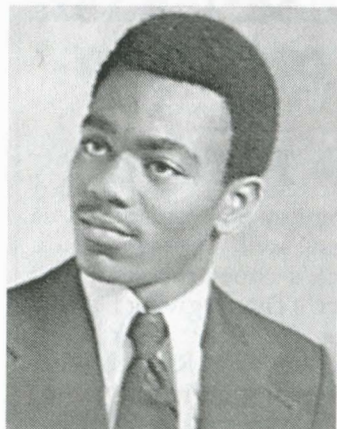
They Now?

Enya Flack

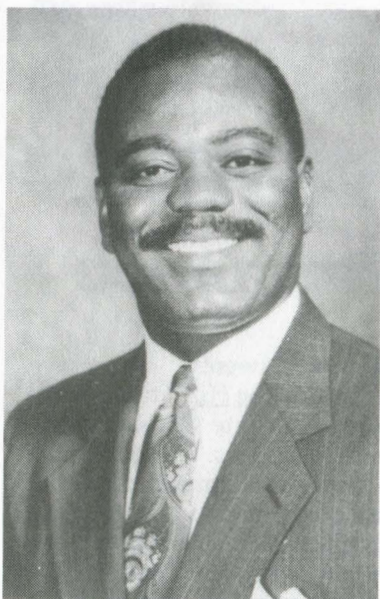
class of 1984

George Dunlap

class of 1974



George Dunlap, 1974



Dunlap, 1996

George Dunlap is a member of the South Meck class of '74, and currently serves on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education, the NC Juvenile Justice Commission and the Board of Directors of Alexander's Children's Center. He is also a member of the Board of Deacons at St. Paul's Baptist Church.

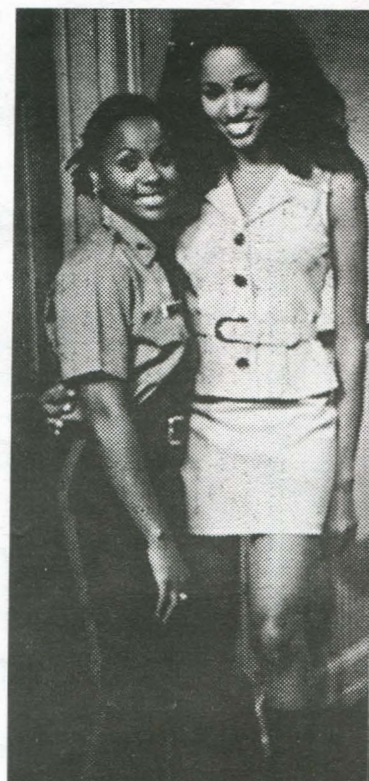
Dunlap may not be famous, but he is a model graduate because of his determination to succeed. When he left school, he was at the bottom of his class,

and had no plans for the future. After 17 years, he has his BS Degree in Criminal Justice, an AA degree in Police Science, and a degree in Correctional Science. He was a Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officer for 18 years. The most valued lesson he has learned is: "You are not a loser until you give up on yourself."

Compiled by Lauren Coggins



Enya Flack, 1984



Flack, 1996

Enya Flack is a South Mecklenburg graduate of the class of '84 who has made the rare trip to Hollywood where she found success on camera and off. She has dated several celebrities, including Dennis Rodman and the Artist Formerly Known As Prince. This fall, Flack can be seen starring on the sitcom "Malcolm & Eddie". It is her first regular role in a TV series after smaller guest roles on the "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air", "Full House", and "Step by Step".

After graduating from South, Enya (pronounced EEN-ya) attended George Washington University and got her degree in communications. She never intended to go into acting, but after a job at WSOC-TV and an internship at the Fox affiliate in Washington, she landed a job teaching at a modeling school. One day a talent scout visiting the school convinced her to audition for a role in Patti LaBelle's "Out All Night". She got the part, and moved to Los Angeles in 1993.

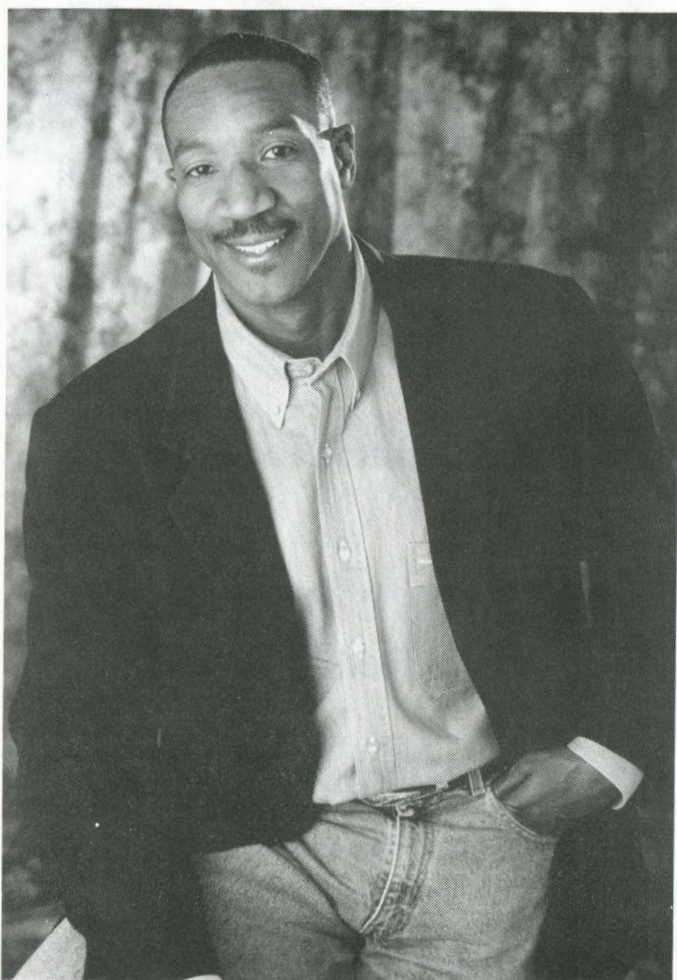
Flack's parents, Jerry and Ruebenna Flack, currently live in Charlotte and are both retired Charlotte-Mecklenburg school teachers.

Although she lives in California, Flack remains close, talking to her mother at least three times a day.

Information provided by the *Charlotte Observer*
Compiled by Lauren Coggins

er Davis

of 1972

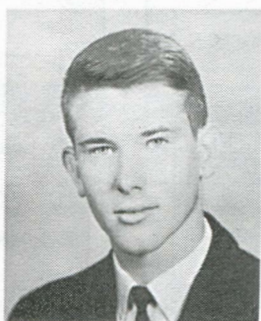


Davis, 1996

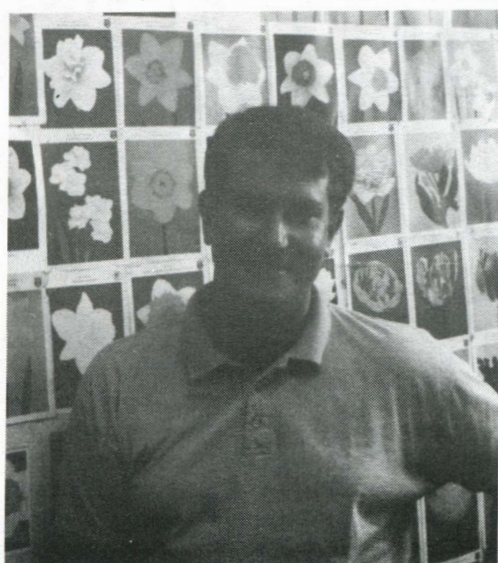
1992.

His last contract with Denver stipulated that he could work for the Denver Nuggets Organization once his playing career was over. He currently works in public relations for the Organization and does commentary for radio and television. In addition to working for the Nuggets, you may find him at ACC basketball games.

Compiled by Katie Payerle



Robert Carol Furr, Jr.
1964



Furr, 1996

Robert Furr

class of 1964

Robby Furr was a member of the first student body at South Mecklenburg. Furr first attended South when he was in the eighth grade. "I had wonderful teachers," he said.

Now, Furr owns a well known nursery on Scaleybark Rd. in Charlotte. Furr's Nursery is known for the flower bulbs that it imports directly from Holland.

He feels that South Mecklenburg was the foundation for his future because of the skills that he learned. "I never thought I'd use the basic skills I learned in high school," he said, "But I use things like algebra every day in my work."

Furr inherited the company from his father. "I wanted a stock brokerage company," he said, "But Daddy didn't own one."

Katie Payerle



Track team member goes for win. (1984)



Two members of the G.Q. Club (1984)

Prickly bushes and tall seniors

By Walter Boyle and Lauren Coggins

The freshmen year is full of worries, some well founded and others that are nothing more than rumors. The intimidating seniors glaring at outsiders from the senior patio, the big, menacing bushes, and the administrators do not need any description. The idea of singing or dancing for a group of upper-classmen could be enough to unravel any freshman.

But please...although the first year is full of new experiences, it's not all bad. This year's freshmen, the class of 2000, is the first to stay in the freshman palace, and if you ask any freshman what they're here for, they know that it is to learn. Freshmen opinions are as widely varied as the freshmen themselves, and asking several freshmen the same question, "Do you think that the teachers care about you?" results in totally different responses.

One said that the teachers

cared about nothing but correct answers. After asking another freshman the same thing, the reply was that the teachers here are more caring than at any other school he had attended. When asked what students thought of the courses at South, they said that the longer classes are better, because more can be accomplished. When asked what her first impression of South was, Lindsay Wilfley said "BIG".

Those of us who are no longer freshmen remember the overwhelming number of people and the confusing arrangement of the buildings. Things change. With time, we have grown accustomed to the atmosphere, schedules and traditions at South. The teachers all care, take time to help each student, and learn new names in a few days.

But the bushes remain, and songs fill the air during the first days of school.



Characters gather around the bar in act two of *Gold*.

Golden performance

By Katie Payerle

Somedra went back in time with a drama from the nineteenth century. The play, *Gold in the Hills*, is a melodrama with exaggerated characters and a complex plot involving adventure and romance.

Ms. Curl was the director of the production. Warner Watkins and Heather Bryant played the hero and heroine in a cast of

more than twenty

Gold in the Hills' two performances in late October drew large audiences. Crowd participation was an important part of the performance. Playgoers cheered the hero and booed the villain played by Dat Le. Excessive emotion and silly lines contributed to the fun of the show.

Mauriello advances in Morehead competition

Cliff Mauriello was named a semi-finalist in the competition for the John Motley Morehead Award. He was interviewed by the local Morehead committee. The next interview will be December 12.

Cheerleaders march in Macy's Parade

Brantley Dubose and Jamie Russel will represent South Meck's cheerleaders at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. Dubose and Russel were awarded spots in the parade because of their positions as officers at cheerleading camp. Both are excited at the prospect of appearing on NBC.

"Just going to New York is exciting. We'll get to see a Broadway show, the Statue of Liberty, and the Rockettes," said Dubose.

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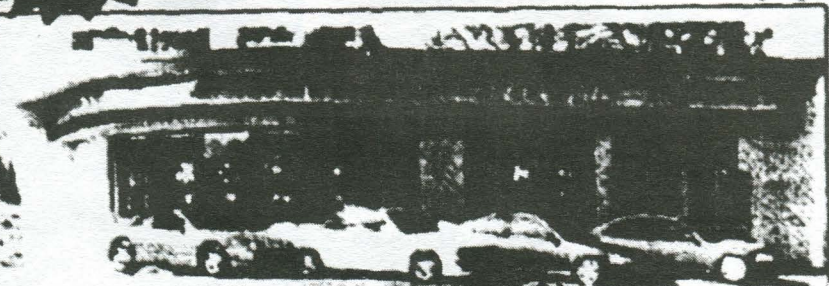
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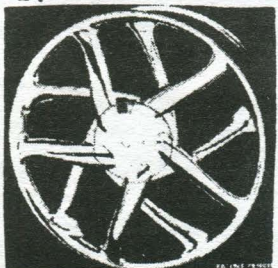
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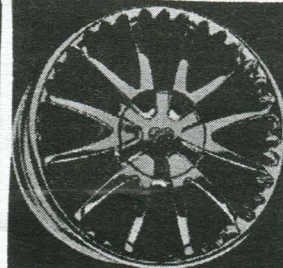
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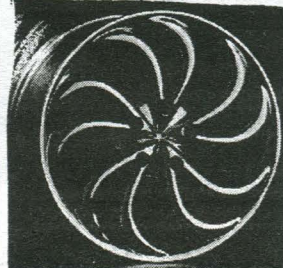
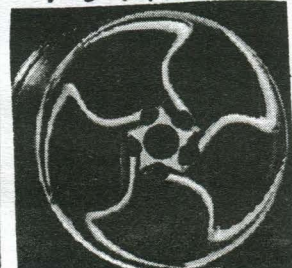
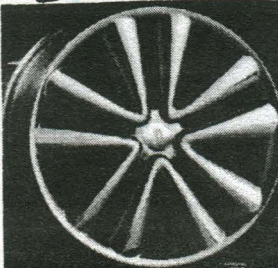


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ACC Preview

By Kevin Ballantine

This season the ACC's should be one of the best conferences in NCAA Men's basketball. Our teams are chock full of talent due to returning players and rising rookies. Here's how the teams stack up against each other.

Wake Forest- This is the team to beat in the oncoming season. The Deac's are looking for their third straight ACC tournament title. Tim Duncan, the All-American and First Team ACC center coming back for his senior year, should be enough to prove the point. Also returning are seniors Ricky Peral and Sean Allen, the backcourt from last season. Wake's going to have a giant front line teaming Duncan with the 7-1 freshman Loren Woods. Depth will be added with Rutland and Braswell coming off injuries. They also signed some great recruits including Aron McMillian and Jose Shoemaker. They appear to be a shoe-in for the ACC championship.

UNC- Carolina is just great; what can I say? With senior leadership from Serge Zwikker and the sophomore talent of Antawn Jamison and Vince Carter, the Tarheels will be a strong contender as always. Williams and Okalaja will try and fill the void left in the backcourt with McInnis and Calabria leaving. The Heel's also did a decent recruiting job, snagging Ed Cota out of Brooklyn.

Duke- Basketball is what these guys play and they play it well. Because they did a superb job recruiting in the offseason they will have lots of young talent. They grabbed William Avery who was one of the top prospects in the U.S. Jeff Capel returning for his senior year will provide leadership for the team. They also have Trajan Langdon coming off of an injury. This squad's going to be good.

Clemson- The Tigers have chemistry this year which could spell disaster for all of the other teams. While they are usually one-hit wonders, this year they are in contention for a tournament title. The main reason is that all five of last year's starters are returning. The team will be anchored by standout forward Greg Buckner.

Georgia Tech- the squad from GT will be okay this year. The Yellowjackets did get rookie prospect Kevin Morris out of New York. All-ACC junior Matt Harpring will be trying to lead the team.

Virginia- They always have a bit of promise each year. Don't expect much from the Cavaliers. They have several supporting role players, but no leaders or standouts. They did sign one good prospect, Chezley Watson from Georgia. **Maryland-** One name for you, senior Keith Booth. He was named to the All-ACC pre-season team. He's all they have since their outstanding center Joe Smith left two seasons ago. **Florida State-** These guys just need to stick to football. **N.C.State-** Who?

Young team almost makes it

By Karen Whichard

Fast starts can fade fast. Fortunately, the South Meck men's soccer team continued playing well after a very successful opening half of the conference season.

South Meck was tied for first during a good portion of the season, but eventually ended the season in fourth place behind Providence, Myers Park, and East Meck. Led by first team all-conference and all-region selection Gus Doulevaris and second team all-conference selections Steve Gowdy and John Moffit, the Sabres were in heated competition for the third Southwestern 4A playoff spot. A win was needed against Myers Park in the final match of the season for the Sabres to advance. Unfortunately,

South came up short. Senior Josh Davis said, "The team had a successful season, we have really worked hard, but

"We have really worked hard."

is was disappointing."

Even though this season ended without a trip to the state playoffs, the Sabres will be in good shape next year, because only three seniors are graduating. Coach Lynch said, "next season looks promising." With so many players returning, South will definitely be able to improve on their 7-5 conference record and their 11-9-1 overall mark from the season.

Sabres miss playoffs

By Cliff Maurello

Independence eliminated South Meck from the race for a state playoff berth with a 15-14 win at South. South had rallied from an early 9-0 deficit to take the lead late in the third quarter. A fumble recovery and a touchdown drive directed by quarterback C. J. Leak put the Sabres ahead 14-9. The Patriots answered earlier in the fourth quarter with a sustained touchdown drive. The Sabres mounted drive after drive, but turnovers and the Independence defense prevented South from scoring again. South needed the victory to secure a tie breaker over Independence for the second playoff berth from the Southwestern 4A



- Photo by Sean Busher-

conference. The Sabres only other conference loss was a 42-8 defeat at the hands of West Charlotte. A win over Myers Park will give the Sabres a winning season, and a 4-2 conference record.

Doing well under pressure

By Nicole Ewing

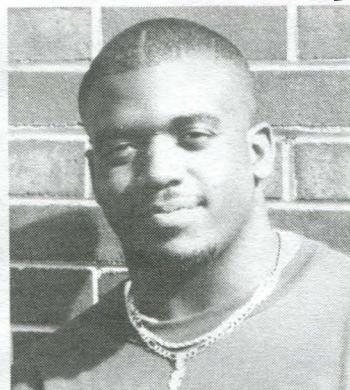
The 1996 Ladies tennis team finished a very impressive season with a record of three and three. "Our main goal was to have all of the players play up to their potential, and all of them did," said Coach Art Abbott. The team lost their top five players from last year, but still managed to finish fourth in the conference.

The girls also did well in the conference tournament. Three made it to the second round of play, while the doubles team of Allison Abbott and Sallie Nash

reached regionals. They then advanced to the quarterfinals. "This year was definitely the best year for the tennis team. Though our records weren't as good, our level of improvement was much better than last year. I'm very proud to say that I was a part of the team," said Sallie Nash.

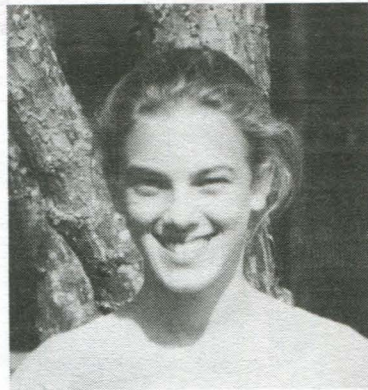
Although they had a lot to live up to, the young team proved that they can do well under pressure. They are very confident they will come out on top next season.

Athletes of the Month



By Jennifer Collins

Senior Karl Walker has been playing football for as long as he can remember, and has learned to overcome his lack of height by focusing on strength and power. His role model in the sport is Walter Payton. Karl is dedicated to football and his experience is what helps him overcome troubling times. Karl currently has a 3.42 GPA and is working hard to maintain it. Karl also is a member of the South basketball team.



By Jennifer Collins

Sophomore Kate Meier is well known for her running ability. She likes the opportunity it provides to meet new people. Unfortunately, she has struggled with injuries. Last year an injured ankle ended her season. She currently is nursing an injured knee. Injuries have not permitted Kate to compete in important races. Kate also does exceptionally well in class, and maintains a 4.2 GPA.

Sabres struggle in conference meet

by Cliff Mauriello

Youth and injuries are almost too much to overcome. The Sabres completed the most successful regular season in Coach Lalas' tenure at South Meck, but nagging injuries to two of the top five runners kept the Sabres from placing well at the conference meet. Senior Michael Mauriello was the only Sabre to make the all conference team, placing fifth. Cliff Mauriello struggled to find his rhythm throughout the entire season and missed his second cross country all-conference team by one place. Sophomore Mike Arrigo was plagued by an inflamed hip throughout his run, and freshman John Lakas was forced to drop out of the race at the two mile mark. The Sabres placed fourth in the team competition.

The Lady Sabres suffered from the same situation as the men. Captain Kate Meier was forced to sit out her second conference championship meet in a row and watched her young teammates finish fifth in the team

competition. Katie Dillard made the all-conference team for the Sabres, the first Lady Sabre to do so since Rebecca Daughtridge and Susan Wallmark made the team in 1994. Meier suffered from torn cartilage in her knee throughout the latter portion of the season. Aside from the disappointment of the conference meet, the Sabres finished third in the Wendy's Invitational Open Race and the ASU Mountaineer Invitational, the team's best finishes ever at these invitational. Michael Mauriello medalled in every race this year, and four Sabres broke the eighteen minute barrier for the five kilometer race. Kate Meier placed at the Western Carolina Invitational, and Katie Dillard medalled at ASU. Freshman John Lakas became the first freshman in Coach Lalas' tenure to medal in his first race. Lakas, the brother of 1994 3200 meter state champion Jennifer Lakas, placed tenth in the open race at the Sun Valley Invitational.

Hard work will pay off next season

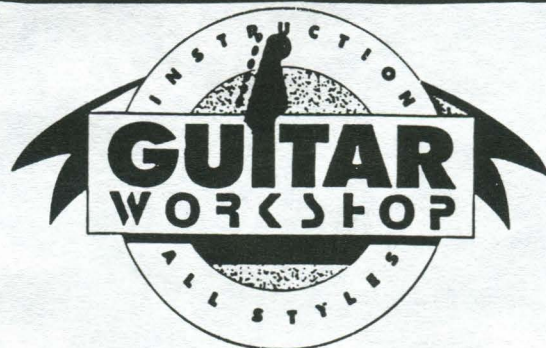
By Karen Whichard

Living on top of the world will not last forever. After the emotional high of beating Providence for the first time ever, the Sabre volleyball team has learned that nothing is guaranteed.

South finished a disappointing fourth in the Southwestern 4A this season, behind Providence, Myers Park, and West Charlotte. Providence went on to win the state 4A title. With all but one player returning the Sabres should be strong contenders for

the conference crown next season. "This year will prepare us better for next year," said Coach Dave.

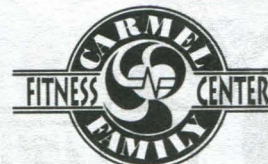
This season the Sabres were led by several juniors, who are among the best players in the city. Co-captain Kristy Michue, however, was the lone selection to the Southwestern 4A All-Conference team. When asked about the season Kristy said, "I think we had a disappointing season. We'll be better next year."



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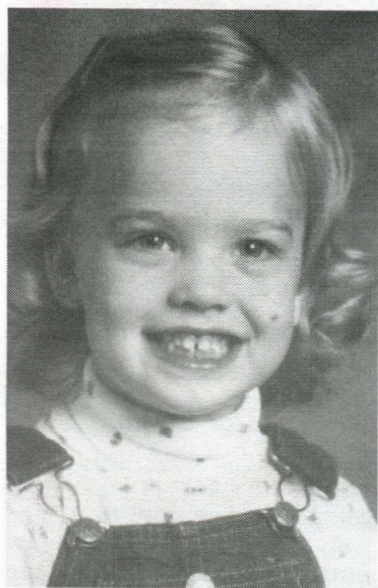
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Senior Mysteries



By Nicole Ewing

This senior woman can always be seen walking into school with trendy clothes and curly hair. She is the number one tennis player and co-captain of the team. She takes part in Paws, Interact, Science Club, German Club, and Wilderness Club. She is also the art editor of *Sententia*. On the weekends, this Lady Sabre can be seen either making shakes at Carolina Smoothies or helping out at Quail Hollow Country Club. Her dancing ability has earned her a studio scholarship to Enchanting Studios. Can you guess who this senior mystery is?

Answers to Senior Mysteries on Page 6.



By Kevin Ballantine

This senior is truly a mystery. He is known all around campus for his artwork and has earned recognition for it. He is also an active member of the Art Honor Society. This senior is very involved academically, taking AP and Advanced classes. He participates in the Chinese, Latin, and Sabre Pep Club. On weekends he works at the family business. He speaks four different languages, and is an active member in his church and youth group. You can see his blue Olds Cutlass in the parking lot. Can you guess this senior mystery?

Pit stops on the information super hi-way

By Walter Boyle

The next time that you are surfing the net, here are some interesting sites...

<http://www.charlotte.com>, for the latest news and info about the place where you live.

<http://www.nfl.com/panthers>, rosters, scores, stats, and play dates about your very own Carolina Panthers.

<http://www.unc.edu>

<http://www.ncsu.edu>, the virtual campuses of the two top choices of South Students.

<http://www.seussville.com>, books, contests, games, and more. The home page for Dr. Seuss and all his cool creations.

<http://www.spyzone.com>, ever want to be James Bond, or just have some of his cool gadgets? Well, check out this site; they have the tools and techniques.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov>, check up on what is going on in the White House, upcoming events and everything else.

If you feel like telling your commander-in-chief what's what, you can e-mail him at, clinton196@aol.com, or at whitehouse@aol.com.



Krefelders take a moment to smile for the camera.

Krefelders visit us again

By Kevin Ballantine

Thirteen students from Krefeld, Germany visited South Mecklenburg for three weeks in an exchange program. The German students stayed with South Meck students and went on field trips to Discovery Place and Latta Plantation Park. They also went whitewater rafting and visited the beach.

The exchange program began in 1991. Organizers chose Krefeld because of its status as Charlotte's sister city in Germany.

"The exchange program is important because the students get to use German and their knowledge of Germany in a real German setting. It also allows the

students to have fun and learn by doing. It's also important to start the working for international peace and understanding now, when the next generation is young," said Mr. Skinner.

The exchange students activities were supervised by German teacher Tom Skinner and two teachers from Krefeld, Mr. Jeske and Mrs. Hoepfer. All agree that the program is a vital one in helping students understand international relations.

"All the time and energy that went into the exchange were well worth it", said Mr. Skinner. "Many new wonderful friendships and relations were formed."

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